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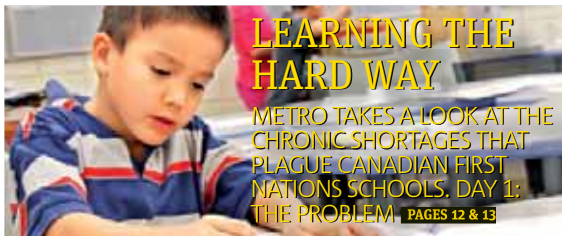
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**MORRISON HOMES** 50 years

## Noah's fine films

Russell Crowe stars in Noah, just the latest in a long lineup of movies featuring the story of pairs of animals, a flood, and the guy who had to keep it all afloat

PAGE 16



## LEARNING THE HARD WAY

METRO TAKES A LOOK AT THE CHRONIC SHORTAGES THAT PLAGUE CANADIAN FIRST NATIONS SCHOOLS. DAY 1: THE PROBLEM. PAGES 12 & 13

**WAVES COFFEE**  
at home

#PAIRSWITH  
Early mornings

**WAVES COFFEE HOUSE**



## RIVERBANK REINFORCEMENTS

Crews used heavy equipment to reinforce a section of riverbank near Memorial Drive and 19 Street NW with rock Tuesday. Work on six "critical" sections of riverbank that were badly eroded during last year's flood is expected to be complete by early June, according to city officials. The chance of another flood is highest during the third week of June, according to flood forecasters. Story, page 4. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

# Busing times 'ridiculous' in Calgary suburbs

**Lack of schools.** Public board warns it may run out of drivers



**JEREMY NOLAÏS**  
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As she frantically phoned her kids' school, Ayisha Raja-Qadri feared the worst.

She was en route to the hospital and had only been told a school bus transporting two of her three youngsters to Cambrian Heights School had been involved in a crash.

"You're thinking, 'My kids are gone,' she said. 'You fear the worst.'"

Her youngsters came away with a few "bumps and bruises," and the crash eventually appeared to be the fault of a motorist driving a truck on

slippery roads. But the fearful circumstances reinforced Raja-Qadri's larger concerns about prolonged bus commutes for students residing in Calgary's suburbs. She lives in the rapidly growing north community of Evanston, which is in line for new schools operated by both the Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School District as early as 2016. In the meantime, however, kids are shipped roughly 20 minutes south to facilities closer to the city core. Factor in rush-hour traffic and Raja-Qadri said both her elementary- and middle school-aged kids spend more than 40 minutes on the bus both to and from school.

"I grew up in Denmark, I walked to school — we had three schools within walking distance and that's still the case over there," she said. "I do think it's ridiculous."

"I think a lot of the times developers tell you, 'Oh yeah, this space right here, it's for a school at some point,' but could be in 20 years when your kids are gone and not living in the area anymore."

The situation is even worse in other areas — Mahogany, for example, sees average school bus rides of 42 minutes for kindergarten to Grade 4 students and 52 minutes for those in grades five to nine.

Psychologist Cory Hrushka with Insight Psychological said such prolonged commutes can also have a damaging "domino effect" on family routines.

"It can cause an incredible level of frustration for families, which then impacts the whole family system," he said. "Parents have to adjust to that stress and it's not the child's fault but sometimes it can be taken out on the child."



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## Leadership race. Tories set new rules

Prospective Tory leaders will have to be able to bring cash to the table if they want to take part in the party's leadership race.

The Progressive Conservatives announced rules for its upcoming leadership contest late Monday and they include a \$50,000 entry fee to participate.

That will help offset the costs of a Sept. 6 vote, which would be followed by a Sept. 20 vote if there is no clear majority on the first ballot.

"We try to have these races be revenue neutral, that has been the case in the past," said PC party president, Jim McCormick.

He said the fee had nothing to do with the party's current balance sheet.

"Our financial situation has been a bit overblown," he said.

The last leadership tilt cost contenders \$40,000, and the previous one \$15,000. By contrast, the Wildrose said they had a \$10,000 fee in 2009.

Mount Royal University professor Duane Bratt said the party's decision is likely to make sure it raises some funds, because the leadership contenders will be putting a strain on other donors.

"Each candidate will probably have to raise close to \$1 million if not higher and that money goes to the candidate; that money doesn't go to the party," he said.

Bratt said while the leadership race may cause a financial strain, it was the best option.

"The alternative was having a leader who was incredibly unpopular," he said. "I think this is the lesser of two evils for the party."

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO



An infant undergoes a screening test for hearing impairment. CHRISTY SANTORO/MOTHERLANDMIDWIFERY.COM

# Alta. lags in screening for hearing problems

**Early detection emphasized.** Between 3 and 5 babies per 1,000 are born with hearing problems



ROBSON FLETCHER

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Nearly every baby born in British Columbia is now screened for hearing impairment, but most Alberta infants don't receive the same service, say a group of audiologists who are calling on the province to im-

prove access.

"I would say it's much less than half," said Holly Gusnowsky, director of professional practice with the Alberta College of Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologists.

Gusnowsky said she's only aware of two health centres in the province that do screening for healthy newborns — one in Grande Prairie and one in Medicine Hat.

"There are no well babies being screened in Edmonton or Calgary," she said.

Most provinces see more than 90 per cent of babies screened, according to a report released Tuesday by Speech-

Language and Audiology Canada, which gave Alberta a failing grade in this area.

The report noted that the Alberta government announced plans to implement province-wide screening in March 2013 but has taken "no further action since that time."

Alberta Health couldn't say Tuesday exactly where screening of healthy babies is currently taking place.

Spokesman Tim Wilson initially told Metro the province "is piloting the universal newborn hearing screening project at 10 health centres" but that conflicts with what Gusnowsky said and with

what Alberta Health Services says online.

AHS lists four service locations on the "Universal Newborn Hearing Screening" section of its website: Bow Island, Brooks, Medicine Hat, and Oyen.

Gusnowsky said many Alberta children born with hearing problems don't have the problems detected until age two or three when they display speech and developmental delays.

"Basically the child has gone through auditory deprivation for two and a half years," she said. "And that's not acceptable."

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## Infrastructure. City embarks on 'critical' repairs to riverbanks

City crews will reinforce critically eroded sections of riverbank over the next eight weeks with thousands of tonnes of stone blasted from the Rocky Mountains, with work expected to be completed by early June.

"As we're rebuilding the embankments, we're ensuring we have protection to a level that's at least the 1-in-100-year level, plus a half metre," said Frank Frigo, the city's senior planning engineer with water services.

Work has already begun at four sites, located near the intersections of 8 Avenue and 22 Street SE, Home Road and 52 Street NW, Memorial Drive and 3 Street NW, and Memorial Drive and 19 Street NW.

Frigo said work will begin shortly at two more sites, one in Diamond Cove and the other in Douglassdale.

The city budgeted \$12 million in 2013 and \$55 million in 2014 for riverbank repairs in the wake of damage from last June's flooding.

In addition to the six "critic-



This bank along the Bow River in the east end of Inglewood was one of several sites that saw major erosion during the June 2013 flood. METRO FILE

al" sites receiving immediate attention, Frigo said an additional 27 "high-priority" sites will also see repairs.

Twyla Hutchison, another planning engineer with the city, previously told Metro the highest risk of flooding is expected in the third week of June, due to the typical rate of snowmelt and the high chance of heavy rainfall at that time.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

### Trans-Canada Highway

#### Calgarian killed by semi-trailer truck: RCMP

A 54-year-old pedestrian was killed on the Trans-Canada Highway Tuesday, according to authorities, who say it's possible he had begun to walk along the highway after his vehicle was stranded.

The Calgary man was struck by a semi-trailer truck about three kilometres east of Calaway Park, according to RCMP.

METRO

### Seton

#### City set to open SE emergency response centre

Dignitaries are set to ring the bell on a new fire station and emergency response centre in the city's far-flung southeast on Wednesday.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi, Coun. Shane Keating and Calgary MLA Rick Fraser are set to join Chief Bruce Burrell in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the new centre in Seton. METRO



The majority of right-hand-drive vehicles in Canada originate from Japan — 2,000 to 3,000 per year — according to a 2010 report from the Toronto Automobile Dealers Association. COURTESY BRANDON STACYSZYN

# Right-hand-drive cars in province's sights

**Legislation.** Alberta mulling the merits of new rules for these divisive vehicles



BRYAN WEISMILLER  
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When it comes to regulating right-hand-drive vehicles, car buffs and auto dealers are once again sitting on different sides of the debate.

Alberta Transportation has highlighted exploring legislation on the imported units — where the steering wheel is

### By the numbers

## 40%

The increased accident rate of a right-hand-drive vehicle, according to a 2007 study done by the Insurance Board of British Columbia.

on the opposite side of most Canadian models — as a "key action" for 2014 in its safety road map.

Nissan Skyline owner Brandon Stacyszyn has imminent plans to purchase his sixth righty ride since getting hooked after he "converted to the other side."

"Whether it's a piece or not — you get so many looks, so many compliments," Stacyszyn said.

He suggested the province explore age- or class-based sanctions first before something as extreme as a registration ban.

An Alberta Transportation department spokeswoman said the review is still in its "very exploratory" phase, but she confirmed officials are looking at the merits of new regulations.

Material on the province's website offers a stronger stance.

"Imported right-hand-drive vehicles were never built for or intended to be driven on North American roads."

Denis Ducharme, head of

the Motor Dealers Association of Alberta, stood behind the industry's widely held arguments that right-hand-drive units tend to be more dirty and dangerous than their lefty counterparts.

"When Alberta was being attacked because of the high emissions from the oilsands, there was an argument to say, 'Well, these are very high emitters compared to any new vehicle that gets produced today,'" Ducharme said Tuesday.

"And they're responsible for more accidents."

A federal government spokesperson confirmed there are no changes planned to countrywide legislation on right-hand-drive vehicles.



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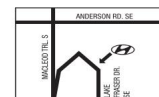
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A concept design of the Calgary Stampede Youth Campus, which will include an arts academy. METRO FILE

# Charter school wants to round up students

**Stampede grounds.**  
Site could include elementary, high schools alongside middle school



**JEREMY NOLAÏS**  
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Charter-school executives have already lassoed space on the Calgary Stampede grounds, but have eyes on a bigger development down the cowboy trail.

Dale Erickson, superintendent for Calgary Arts Academy, said Tuesday that his organization hopes to establish both an elementary and high school on the storied site alongside a 300-student middle school already approved by the province last month.

"We would like the entire school together," Erickson said, later adding, "I think the largest advantage is the sense of community ... when we initially

began as one campus, a K-9 campus, the students were able to develop positive relationships right across the board."

A timeline for all three phases of the academy will depend on provincial approvals, Erickson said, but a document published on the organization's website expresses optimism that the entire development could be ready by 2020.

The academy was originally launched at Glenmeadows School, a site leased from the Calgary Board of Education but split off into Knob Hill School in the mid-2000s.

Erickson said costs for each phase of the Stampede project were still being worked out, but the charter's charitable foundation has already been tasked with fundraising \$1 million to help renovate the Weston Bakery so it can house the middle school.

The high school could be included in Phase 2 of the project, should it be approved, Erickson said.

## Public interest

The public board is also eyeing the Stampede site.

- The Calgary Board of Education is pursuing a \$30-million facility for senior students on the site, ranking the project No. 11 on their 2015-2018 capital plan released last week.
- CBE chief Supt. Naomi Johnson provided reasoning for the project in a meeting with trustees last week.
- "The announcement of the charter school that is going into the Stampede area is a K-9 school and we would like to be able to extend that opportunity for kids down in that area as well."

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## STARS Lottery. Flood-affected Alberta resident wins luxury home

Nine months after floodwaters swamped High River, town resident William Rader has reason to flash a million-dollar grin.

Rader, who was displaced from his home for almost two months, has been named one of the grand-prize winners in the STARS Lottery. His new place, in Red Deer, comes with an estimated value of \$945,000.

"To hear that we won a house is surreal," Rader said in a news release. "It's a lot to let sink in."

After winning a new pickup truck and trailer, Lethbridge

### The lottery

The 2014 lottery raised more than \$11 million. It's the largest single funding source for the air ambulance service.

resident Brodin Fyke shared his personal connection to STARS.

"My wife was in a motocross accident 10 years ago and was airlifted by STARS, so I believe this is a great cause to support," said Fyke. "I buy a ticket every year." **METRO**

### Defect

## Village Brewery recalls growlers

Calgary's Village Brewery is recalling the 1.89-litre glass containers that hold many of its popular local beers. Known as growlers, the large, refillable bottles were found to have a defect

and there was at least one case of a bottle exploding, the company said in a recall notice. "If you have a full growler at home and would like to return it please bring it to the brewery (5000 12a Street SE) and we will credit you for the growler or replace it with a 12 pack," the company said in a written statement. **METRO**

# Philanthropist lotto winner boosts kid-friendly Calgary startup Kidoodle.tv



A child uses Kidoodle.tv on a tablet device. INSET: Tom Crist, who won \$40 million in Lotto Max last year and pledged to give it all to charity, is partnering with the Calgary company. CONTRIBUTED

### Not just about money.

Tom Crist says he was looking for an investment with a 'human return'



**ROBSON FLETCHER**  
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Calgary startup Kidoodle.tv, which aims to go head-to-head with Netflix in the market for on-demand children's programming, got a big boost this week from local lottery winner and philanthropist Tom Crist.

The company announced a "multi-million dollar" partnership with Crist, who made headlines last year after winning \$40 million in Lotto Max and pledging

to direct all the money to worthy causes.

Crist said he decided to invest in Kidoodle because it's "a company that has similar values and that can provide a return on investment that is more than money."

The partnership happened after one of Crist's sons started using Kidoodle and turned his dad on to the service, said company founder Mike Lowe.

"We'd been looking for the right type of investor for a long time," Lowe said. "We did turn away certain venture capital because it was always about the money."

Kidoodle, which launched commercially in Canada and the U.S. on Jan. 1, offers kid-friendly programming that can be streamed on a variety of devices and allows parents to control the content and limit children's viewing time.

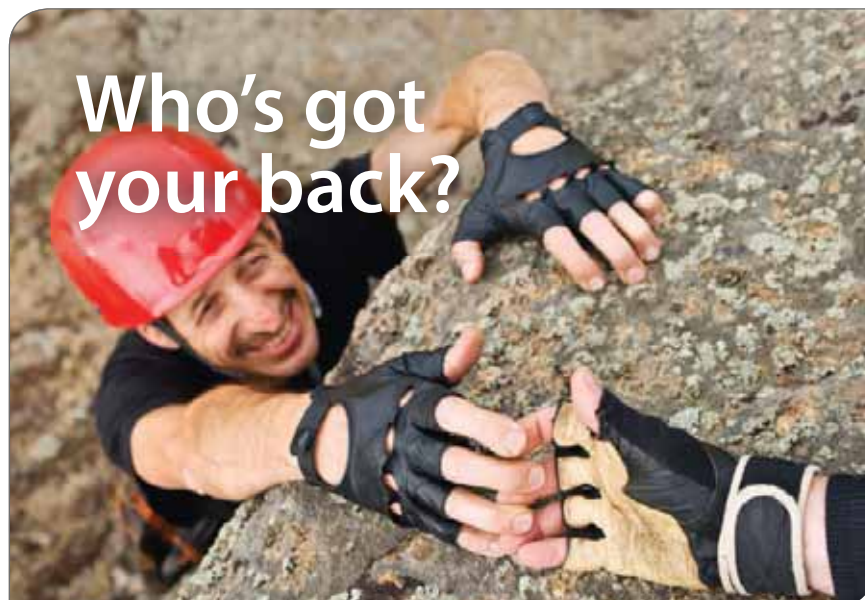


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# Harper 'surprised' by Nadon verdict, but will respect decision

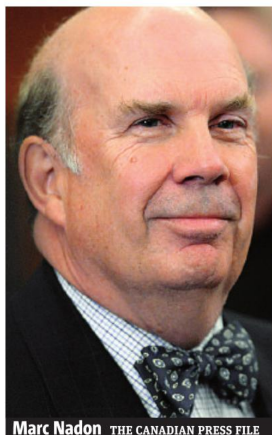
## Supreme Court seat.

Nadon says he's not sure if he's required to repay salary earned since appointment was announced in October

The Conservative government intends to respect the Supreme Court's decision to deny Marc Nadon the chance to occupy the vacant Quebec seat on the high court bench, says Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

But the government is still reviewing the decision about Nadon's eligibility, which Harper admitted Tuesday left him "very surprised."

"What I can tell you is this: we're obviously going to respect the decision," Harper told a news conference follow-

**Marc Nadon** THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

peal judge, does not meet the specific eligibility requirements for a Quebec seat on the bench as spelled out in the Supreme Court Act.

The high court also says the government needs a constitutional amendment to change the criteria for judges on the top court.

The government expected the Supreme Court to find in its favour, because the possibility of a rejection had been characterized by the experts it consulted as "very hypothetical."

Nadon himself spoke up Tuesday, telling Global News in an interview that he was prepared for the court to rule either way.

"I've been living in limbo, you know, since October, so at least this has certainly ended the uncertainty," Nadon said.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**



## Pistorius expected to testify

Oscar Pistorius and his aunt, Lois, hug after the prosecution closed its case in court in Pretoria, South Africa, Tuesday. Pistorius, who is charged with the 2013 shooting death of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, is expected to testify at the end of the week. In a rare public comment, he said he's going through "a tough time." SIPHWE SIBEKO, POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Allegations

## Israeli minister facing sex scandal

Police on Tuesday questioned Silvan Shalom, a senior Israeli government minister and presumptive presidential candidate, over allegations he committed a sex offense against a former aide 15 years ago—a charge that may not hold up in court but that could derail any hopes for the presidency.

The former aide alleged she was coerced to perform a sex act on Shalom.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**Animal Planet's Wild Recon**

## Ex-host sentenced for trying to sell endangered lizards

The former host of Animal Planet's Wild Recon, Donald Schultz, has been sentenced to two years' probation and 200 hours of community service after admitting to trying to sell two endangered lizards without a permit. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



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# Birds of a feather say no to Winnipeg's weather

**No spring ahead, fall back!** About 200 geese that made their annual return north decided it was too cold and flew back the way they came



SHANE GIBSON  
Metro in Winnipeg

It's so cold in Winnipeg this spring even the geese are turning their feathers to our weather.

Ken Cudmore, of the FortWhyte Alive park and recreation facility, told Metro Tuesday a group of 200 or so



Ken Cudmore, site and wildlife manager of Winnipeg's FortWhyte Alive centre, says a group of 200 or so Canada geese that landed there last week have since headed back south because of the cold weather. CONTRIBUTED

Canada geese that had made their annual return to the centre last week took to the air and headed back the way

they came just days after landing.

"I've been doing this for 30 years and I don't remem-

ber ever seeing anything like it," said Cudmore, FortWhyte's site and wildlife manager. "I couldn't imagine they went

north, so I'm assuming they went back south."

Cudmore said geese normally follow the disappearing snowline on their annual migration north, and he thinks the few nice days we saw last week and a strong south wind might have tricked the birds into thinking it was nicer up this way than it turned out to be once they got here.

With temperatures dropping 10 and sometimes even closer to 20 degrees below the temperatures we can normally expect for this time of year, Cudmore said he doesn't blame the iconic birds one bit.

"Not at all," he laughed. "I'm thinking of joining them."

## Quebec

### Lac-Mégantic probe officially wrapped up

Quebec provincial police are confirming they have completed their investigation into the deadly train disaster in Lac-Mégantic.

The crash and explosion killed 47 and destroyed a large swath of the downtown area last summer.

Police spokeswoman Aurelie Guindon says the investigation was officially wrapped up on Saturday and the case is now in the hands of the province's director of criminal and penal prosecutions.

Neither the Crown nor police would discuss the results of the probe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Political pages

### Justin Trudeau publishing an autobiography

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau has announced he will publish a personal memoir.

In a press release, publisher HarperCollins Canada says the "candid" autobiography will cover the 42-year-old's childhood to his university days and political career, and will boast "anecdotes, personal reflections and never-before-seen photographs."

The memoir is set to be released this fall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Report. Data on student loans was left unsecured

A portable hard drive containing personal information on more than half a million people who took out student loans was left unsecured for extended periods and lacked password protection and encryption, says the federal privacy czar.

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada acknowledged last year the

drive held data on 583,000 Canada Student Loans Program borrowers from 2000 to 2006.

The missing files included student names, social insurance numbers, dates of birth, contact information and loan balances, as well as the personal contact information of 250 department employees.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Study: Most lost cellphones are returned — after some snooping

The odds of having a lost cellphone returned are just a little better than 50/50, while the chances of it being probed by its finder are close to 100 per cent, according to the results of an experiment conducted in six Canadian cities.

Security software company Symantec dropped 10 phones each in Calgary,

Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver and waited to see if they would be returned.

Each phone was preloaded with icons for phoney apps designed to tempt the finders into tapping on them. Tracking software recorded what they couldn't resist peeking at.

Among the questions that Symantec wanted to answer with the study was how persistent people would be in poking around a found phone.

The answer was very: 93 per cent of the phones were accessed in some way by people who found them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Death toll keeps on climbing in Wash. mudslide

**The search.** Some crews had to pull back because of concerns over potential flash floods or another landslide

Washington state officials say searchers found 10 more bodies in the debris of a massive landslide, raising the number of people who died in the disaster to 24.

Snohomish County District 21 Fire Chief Travis Hots announced the fatalities Tuesday evening after residents from the nearby logging town of Darrington spent the day helping rescue crews scour the muck for any sign of survivors.

The grim discoveries came three days after the collapse of a rain-soaked hillside about 55 miles north of Seattle.

Searchers had warned they were likely to find more bodies in the debris field, which covered a neighbourhood of 49 structures. Authorities believe at least 25 were full-time residences.

Dozens of people remain unaccounted for. Authorities are working off a list of 176 potentially missing people, though many of those names likely are duplicates and they think that number will decrease.

From the beginning, rescue crews on the ground have faced dangerous and unpredictable conditions as they navigated quicksand-like mud



Flowers are left on debris next to a demolished home where a woman's body was found Tuesday in Arlington, Wash. ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

that was 15 feet deep in some places. Some who went in got caught up to their armpits in the thick, sticky sludge.

A scientist who documented the landslide conditions on the hillside that buckled had warned in a 1999 report filed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the "potential for a large catastrophic failure," the Seattle Times reported late Monday.

That report was written by geomorphologist Daniel J. Miller and his wife, Lynne Rodgers Miller. "We've known it would happen at some point," Daniel Miller told the newspaper.

Snohomish County executive John Lovick and public works director Steve Thomsen said Monday night they were not aware of the 1999

report. "A slide of this magnitude is very difficult to predict," Thomsen told the Times. "There was no indication, no indication at all."

Snohomish County emergency management director John Pennington said officials would examine the report, but he said local authorities were vigilant about warning of potential landslide dangers. A less severe slide struck the area in 2006.

"We've done everything we could to protect them. We've mitigated the landslide from 2006," Pennington said at a morning news conference. "We're going to get to the bottom of this."

He said the local homeowners "were very aware of the slide potential."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Ethiopia

### Being gay to become a 'non-pardonable' crime

Ethiopia's lawmakers are set to pass a bill that puts homosexuality on a list of offences considered "non-pardonable" under the country's amnesty law, a measure that continues a trend of anti-gay legislation across Africa. The bill is widely expected to pass when lawmakers put it to a vote next week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Indian Ocean search

### China demands satellite data on missing plane

China demanded Tuesday that Malaysia turn over satellite data used to conclude that a Malaysia Airlines plane crashed in the Indian Ocean, killing all 239 on board. Officials sharply narrowed the search area as a result of that assessment, and Australia said improved weather would allow the hunt to resume Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Security guidelines

### 35 countries take new nuclear security pledge

Thirty-five countries pledged Tuesday to turn international guidelines on nuclear security into national laws, a move aimed at preventing terrorists from obtaining nuclear material. U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said the guidelines are now "the closest things we have to international standards for nuclear security." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Students holding out hope



**MORGAN MODJESKI**  
Metro in Saskatoon

Despite inadequate funding, limited access to technology and outdated learning materials, some students attending school on First Nations reserves are hopeful about their future.

One of them is Grade 9 student Payton Daniels. Sitting in the library of the Sturgeon Lake Central School on Saskatchewan's Sturgeon Lake First Nation, the 15-year-old fiddles with her hands as she talks about her future goals.

"I want to go to university and become a veterinarian," she says. "I think I can do that with the education here."

With Prince Albert only about 40 minutes away, a number of students have been leaving Sturgeon Lake for opportunities in the city. But that option doesn't interest her.

"Here, I can actually learn about ... my native culture," Daniels says. "Our generation, we lost a lot of our culture.... I really want to get my culture back, and I've started beading, and I'm trying to learn Cree again."

If she graduates, she'll be among the minority of on-reserve First Nations students.

A 2011 report from Canada's auditor general found the education gap between First Nations and the rest of the population is growing even wider — a trend the federal government is trying to reverse.

The almost \$2 billion in promised funding is welcome news, but for many young people, like Grade 12 student Patrick Ermine, it will come too late.

"I'm actually known here at the school for being an artist, but there aren't any art classes," says Ermine, 18, who aspires to be a tattoo artist.

While Ermine and Daniels are hopeful about their future, Joanne Berg, a resource teacher at the school, remains worried that a lack of access to modern technology and resources will hurt students in the long run.

"When they choose to go off to university, and their profs are not looking at where they come from, they expect everybody to be able to go and research essays, and find their textbooks," she says.

"They just don't have that ability. We find the kids that are leaving and going off to university are coming back home because they don't know how to access those resources."



**"I'm actually known here at the school for being an artist, but there aren't any art classes."**

Patrick Ermine, 18, at Sturgeon Lake Central School

**"I want to go to university and become a veterinarian. I think I can do that with the education here."**

Payton Daniels, 15, at Sturgeon Lake Central School



# Learning with

**Upheaval is coming for First Nations schools. The federal government is planning to invest nearly \$2 billion into the neglected system and give communities more control over their own education. Metro travelled to two on-reserve schools to document their condition, the details of the plan and why many people say the proposed changes may be their kids' last chance.**



A Grade 12 English class at Sturgeon Lake Central School reads *Lord of the Flies*. Administrators at many on-reserve schools must make do without the funds to hire



**JACOB MORGAN**  
Metro in Saskatoon

For administrators at on-reserve schools, every day is a juggling act.

"It's a constant struggle finding enough money for everything," says Pauline McKay, director and principal of the Sturgeon Lake Central School, which serves the Sturgeon Lake First Nation about 55 kilometres northwest of Prince Albert, Sask.

But many are optimistic that the years ahead will be different.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is promising \$1.9 billion over seven years in the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act. The funding is set to kick in next year.

"We have one phys-ed teacher for all of our 500 kids," says McKay, providing an example of the chronic shortages. "There's always a lack of staff."

In most of the country, First Nations education is funded through the federal government, whereas mainstream public schools receive funding through the province.

McKay said that Sturgeon Lake gets \$6,500 per student per year. By comparison, the provincial government provided more than \$10,000 per student to public and Catholic divisions in the North Battleford, Sask., area, and around \$17,000 to the French board, according to a 2013 study from educational consultant R. J. Kowalchuk.

That discrepancy results in fewer course offerings.

McKay envies how provincial schools are able to enjoy such luxuries as drama and music classes.

"For extras, we have phys-ed and we've got Cree," McKay says. "That's it."

All this hasn't stopped McKay and others at the school from trying to produce graduates out of children deprived of resources. McKay designed her own schedule so students can focus their efforts on one course at a time each month.

At James Smith Cree Nation, roughly 65 kilometres from Prince Albert, the situation is even worse.

Marlene Nicholls, principal of Bernard Constant Community School, says her administration ends up with just \$4,340 per student. Staff can't even afford to call in sick.

"This year we weren't able to hire substitute teachers," she says.

During the five-plus years Nicholls has been with the school, she hasn't once been able to purchase a new vehicle. Luckily, she has a retention worker who can double as a mechanic.

"In the public school system, you have to have (your vehicles) inspected," she says. "We try our best to adhere to those rules and policies, but there's no money for that."

What Nicholls does have is a retention worker and a community liaison to keep tabs on troubled students.

"If a teacher says, 'This kid is missing,' then they go and find out what's happening," she says. "They also have some training in addictions."



# less



enough teachers. JACOB MORGAN/METRO IN SASKATOON

Each of these social workers earns only \$19,000 a year.

The new Conservative initiative for First Nations education is expected to start injecting increased funding in 2015. So the question for those on the ground is not only whether it will be enough, but also whether it will be soon enough.

"I don't think people really believe what it's like in the reserve," McKay says.

French board in  
North Battleford area  
~\$17,000

Public and  
Catholic schools  
in North  
Battleford area  
~\$10,000

Bernard Constant  
Community School  
in James Smith Cree  
Nation  
\$4,340

Annual  
funding  
per  
student

## CATCHING DREAMS

### Day 1: the Problem

Day 2: the Plan

Day 3: the Promise

On the web



#### 1 Gallery. Outdated and in disrepair

Visit metronews.ca to take a closer look at some of the conditions that exist in the First Nations schools of Saskatchewan.

#### 2 Timetable. The basics — just the basics

Principal Pauline McKay of the Sturgeon Lake Central School designed her own schedule so students can focus their efforts on one course at a time each month. Visit metronews.ca to see the meagre timetable.



Hope he's good  
with names ...

Sturgeon Lake Central has just one  
phys-ed teacher for its 500 students.





## Low-cost subsidiary. Air Canada growing Rouge in bid to cut costs

Air Canada is trying to further cut costs by expanding its low-cost subsidiary Rouge in Western Canada and using it to replace its regular service on some U.S. routes from Vancouver and Calgary.

Air Canada said Tuesday that Rouge will begin daily flights at the end of April to Las Vegas from Calgary and Vancouver.

It will be followed with service to Los Angeles, San

Francisco and Anchorage, Alaska, a key port for cruise ships. Seasonal service from Vancouver and Calgary to Phoenix will begin next December.

Air Canada chief commercial officer Ben Smith said the expansion of Rouge and the addition of new aircraft are a "key element of our strategy for sustainable, profitable growth at both airlines."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Market Minute

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## Some ebook(glow)worms to get account credits

Maarten Heilbron of Toronto reads an ebook on his iPad while his wife, Kim, reads on a Kobo Touch. Buyers of ebooks will get account credits this week from five publishers — Hachette Book Group, HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster, Penguin Group and Holtzbrinck doing business as Macmillan — who reached settlements after states alleged they colluded to raise prices, New York's attorney general said Tuesday. TEXT: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; PHOTO: RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# Northwest Passage dream dead for now

**You're enjoying your day ...** Everything's going your way when along comes Lisa Raitt to tell you there'll be no Arctic shortcut soon

The centuries-old dream of shipping through the Northwest Passage will remain mostly illusory for the foreseeable future, Canada's transport minister indicated Tuesday in a blunt assessment of the challenges ahead.

During an appearance in Washington, Lisa Raitt played down expectations that the



Not to be a Debbie Downer ... but Transport Minister Lisa Raitt says there's no Northwest Passage coming any time soon. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arctic is on the cusp of becoming an international shipping hub because of climate

change.

She offered a list of concerns she's heard from the

shipping industry, including from insurance companies — the ones Raitt said are really calling the shots when it comes to what's allowed to pass through the area.

The obstacles include shallow passes and a lack of navigational markers, she said. The prospect of having a shipment stuck up there would wipe out any potential time-savings offered by the shorter intercontinental route.

And then there's the frightening prospect of oil spills.

"I don't see it happening right now," Raitt said in a lengthy, freewheeling question-and-answer session at the Canadian American Business Council. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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or in person at 4815 78th Ave SE, Calgary



# READING, WRITING AND ARRR

Math problem!

Little Johnny has 37 candies and wants to divide them evenly among his five buddies, leaving an equal number for himself. How many candies does each of the boys get?

Answer: Little Johnny hasn't the faintest idea.

He and his friends take the "discovery" method of mathematics at school, where they don't learn the answer but are taught techniques for getting to the answer some day.

So they don't know much about division or fractions. Nor, for that matter, multiplication tables, adding and subtracting from columns of numbers or any of that other boring stuff.

Go figure.

If you don't learn the fundamentals of math, you're in over your head the moment you encounter algebra. And if you don't master algebra, the door is barred to careers in engineering, science, medicine, IT, etc.



**JUST SAYIN'**  
**Paul Sullivan**  
metronews.ca

Math problem indeed!

I suppose you could get an English degree, but you'd have to learn how to spell. Although the way things are going these days, that may not be necessary.

This is not just idle speculation from the back-to-basics crowd. You know: those flinty fundamentalists who walked 10 kilometres to school uphill both ways in a snowstorm and liked it. Canadian math students have dropped out of the top 10 in international math scores. We're number 13!

And in the latest round of tests, only 16 per cent of Canadian students scored at "high achieving levels," compared to 30 per cent of Asian students.

That sound you hear? That's Canada's future going into the ditch on the road to progress.

Things are so bad even parents are starting to notice. The province of Alberta has drawn back from the "discovery" method after receiving a petition from more than 11,700

people who want their kids to be able to count. And Manitoba has reintroduced math drills back into the classroom, while trying to wean kids from kindergarten to Grade 3 off calculators. Ontario is sticking to the discovery course. Why fix it if it doesn't work in the first place?

Right now, you're probably going: "Who needs math?" Well, you do. Every day: at work, on the family finances, trying to convert U.S. gas prices to Canadian litres and dollars (which require advanced calculus), figuring out what to buy at the hardware store or how much to tip the waiter (although many restaurants are pleased to do the calculation for you).

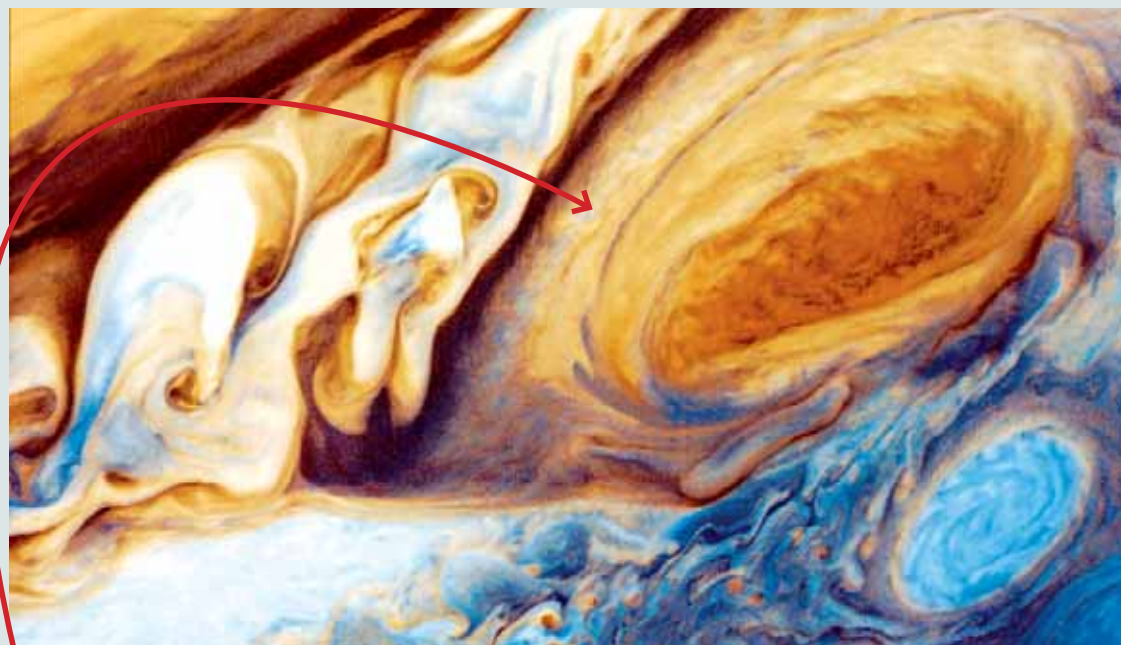
You're at the mercy of the bad old world unless you know how to figure, and for that you need multiplication tables or long division. And unless you do something and soon, your kids will suck at math even worse than you do.

Just think, if little Johnny knows how to divide, he'll successfully divvy up the candies into lots of six with one left over. And he gets to keep that one.

His friends can't count, so they'll never "discover" what he's done.

## ZOOM

### Jupiter paints a pretty picture



COURTESY NASA/JPL-CALTECH

#### Artistic photo of Great Red Spot

It appears to be a canvas painted with Vincent van Gogh's colourful swirls in mind — but this is in fact a photo of Jupiter's Great Red Spot, captured by NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft. The Great Red Spot, the most conspicuous feature of Jupiter's cloud surface, is an atmospheric storm that has been raging in the planet's

Southern Hemisphere for at least 400 years.

In 1979, Voyager zoomed toward Jupiter, capturing hundreds of images during its approach. The observations revealed many features of the planet's surface that are still being explored today. This particular view was only recently assembled from three black and white negatives by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. **METRO**

#### Storm's mystery

- **Size.** 20,000 kilometres long and 12,000 kilometres wide, 3.5 times the size of Earth.
- **Mystery.** Scientists remain baffled why the storm does not dissipate. Their best explanation is the storm gains energy by swallowing smaller vortices in Jupiter's jet streams.



A view of planet Jupiter.

COURTESY NASA

#### Clickbait



**LUKE SIMCOE**  
Metro Online

The latest in a series of Internet memes-to-book crazes is dog shaming: pictures of downtrodden dogs posing with notes outlining what they ate, chewed or pooped on. However, like most Internet memes, dog shaming has spawned a series of spinoffs — even baby shaming.

#### DogShaming.com:

The original site is still one of the best. You can also follow Pascale Lemire on Twitter @dogshaming.

#### Cat-Shaming:

Not content to let dogs have even a slice of online infamy, the Internet's reigning animal was one of the first to jump on the shaming bandwagon. Tumblr is rife with cat-shaming pics, many of which are col-

lected at cat-shaming.tumblr.com.

#### Horse-Shaming.com:

For the irrepressible equine in your life.

#### Pinterest:

No matter what your preferred genre of shaming is, Pinterest has you covered. The photo-sharing site has plenty of shaming content, but is a particular hotbed of baby shaming.



CONTRIBUTED

#### Twitter

@metropicks asked: School boards are teaching responsible tweeting. What lesson would you teach kids who use social media?

@andiwrongwolf: I would teach them that their tweets along with any worldly doings are ultimately meaningless due to their unshakeable mortality

@sassypants81: Never use your real name. - Not Alana Beck

@EvanPetrie17: Don't hide behind anonymity. It's cowardly.

@Canucklehead\_ca: RULE #1: Do as I say, not as I do.

@ljorche: Tweet as if your Grandparents will be reading it.

@artsytrish: Ignore the trolls. Do not engage in argument just because you are not face to face. Respect others.

@HanahBissell: everything is public and can never be deleted. Even if its "private" or "removed" Bad tweets at 16 can haunt you.

@reachstacey: they do not understand how swearing and vulgarity will come back to haunt them by employers-they don't care

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# Crowe blockbuster latest in a flood of Noah movies

**Story ark.** Bible tale formerly featured in Disney films and doc



**IN FOCUS**  
Richard Crouse  
scene@metronews.ca

According to Genesis, God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them."

Noah, a righteous man, was commanded to build an ark and stock it with "two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive."

For 40 days and 40 nights Noah, his family and precious cargo withstood a flood so severe it submerged the tops of mountains until "every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out."

Once the flooding stopped and the Earth dried, God commanded Noah to come out of the ark and release the animals, "so they can multiply on the Earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it."

The story of Noah's ark and the flood is one of mankind's most famous tales and Hollywood has retold it a number of times.

This weekend Russell Crowe plays the title role in Noah, co-starring Jennifer Connelly, Anthony Hopkins and Emma Watson. Director



Russell Crowe stars in Noah, directed by Darren Aronofsky. CONTRIBUTED

Darren Aronofsky says he has been obsessed with the story since he was 13, calling it "the first apocalypse story." Nonetheless, he has added his own spin to the tale.

"When we first started working on the project, we were very clear not to have sandals and robes and long white beards," he told Rolling Stone. "The first thing I said to Russell Crowe was, 'I'll never shoot you on a houseboat with two giraffes standing behind you.'"

More traditional are two

Disney short films. Father Noah's Ark is a 1933 "Silly Symphony" for children that tells the narrative in song. Lively animation shows how the animals may have helped build the ship and why skunks almost didn't make it on board.

In 1959 Disney released the twenty-minute Noah's Ark, their first stop-motion animated film. A jazzy score accompanies equally jazzy animation as pencils, pipe cleaners and other household items are inventively used to

create the animals.

Shooting the flood scene in the 1928 version of Noah's Ark endangered the life of a future Hollywood icon. John Wayne was a swimmer in the famous scene, and emerged unhurt, but other weren't so lucky. Three extras drowned and a dozen others suffered broken limbs.

Finally, a 1977 documentary claims to shed some light on the real story. In Search of Noah's Ark is an investigation into the speculation that Turkey's Mt. Ararat is the

## An untraditional Noah

**"We were very clear not to have sandals and robes and long white beards."**

Darren Aronofsky, director of Noah

landing place of Noah's Ark. "This may be the most incredible film you will ever see," says narrator Brad Crandall, "but the facts that will be presented are true."

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Taylor Swift GETTY IMAGES

## Swift gets restraining order against stalker

A judge has granted Taylor Swift a three-year restraining order against a man who has threatened the singer's family.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carol Boas Goodson granted Swift a protective order from Timothy Sweet, who has expressed his belief that he is married to the Grammy winner.

Swift was granted a temporary restraining order against Sweet on March 3. Court filings state Sweet has sent threatening messages online and went to Swift's Beverly Hills home in February. The order also covers Swift's parents.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

## The Word



Nick Cannon appeared on Instagram in gleeful whiteface to promote his upcoming album, *White People Party Music*. INSTAGRAM

## Nick Cannon dons whiteface

MELINDA TAUB  
Metro World News

White people, let's agree to be mature about this one.

Yes, that's Nick Cannon

up there. Yes, he's donned what might be termed "whiteface." Yes, he adorned the Instagram pic with the caption, "It's official... I'm White!!! #WHITEPEOPLE-PARTYMUSIC #Wppm in stores April 1st!!!!!!Dude Go Get It!!!!Join The Party!!!! #GoodCredit #DogKissing

#BeerPong #FarmersMarkets #FistPumping #CreamCheeseEating #RacialDraft "Bro I got drafted!!!"

So what led Mr. Mariah Carey to dress up as a ginger bro, looking like he's having the time of his life? He's promoting his upcoming album, *White People Party Music*. However, some of the Internet is writhing under the sting of what it perceives as Cannon's brutal racism.

I may be in the minority on this one, but I think it's fine. Blackface is offensive because minstrel shows were part of the systematic oppression of African-Americans for hundreds of years. White people have never been systematically oppressed by black people. No, not even two days ago, when Nick Cannon dressed up as your cousin.



Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow GETTY IMAGES

## Gwyneth and Chris split

It appears things have gone cold in the Paltrow-Martin household. After months of speculation, Gwyneth Paltrow confirmed on her website, Goop, that she and Coldplay singer Chris Martin are calling it quits.

"It is with hearts full of sadness that we have decided to separate," she writes. "We have been working hard for

well over a year, some of it together, some of it separated, to see what might have been possible between us, and we have come to the conclusion that while we love each other very much we will remain separate."

Paltrow and Martin married 11 years ago and have two children, Apple, 9, and Moses, 7. METRO WORLD NEWS

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# Machu Picchu three ways

A trip to the ancient citadel in Peru's Cusco region, 2,430 metres above sea level, tops many bucket lists. The beauty of the 15th-century site becomes even more awe-inspiring when you take in the surrounding Andean peaks and the Vilcanota-Urubamba River. Whether you're a thrill-seeker, an eco aficionado or a connoisseur, there's something for everyone on the trail to the icon of Inca civilization.

MORGAN DUNLOP  
life@metronews.ca



Loki Hostel's action-packed tours are a great way to bond with other fun-loving travellers. MORGAN DUNLOP/FOR METRO

## For the thrill-seeker

Party every night with travellers from around the world at the Loki Hostel in Cusco city (beds from \$8). Named after the Scandinavian god of mischief, this former Spanish colonial home fell into disrepair before four friends set out to turn it into the go-to social spot for fun-loving travellers looking to bond over copious amounts of alcohol. After sharing a row of fiery blood bombs — a shot of vodka mixed with grenadine, lit on fire and plunged into a half-glass of Red Bull — you may decide to head on a trek to Machu Picchu together. The hostel's most action-packed tour leaves you at Machu Picchu after four days of hiking, white-water rafting, mountain biking and zip-lining. Make sure to hike the higher Huayna Picchu for a vertical climb that leads to a stunning view of the site. Before you leave Cusco, dine like a local at the San Pedro market. Expect to be pleasantly ignored and served authentic, inexpensive food, like barbecued guinea pig and alpaca. Try not to be too hungover when you pass the pungent entrails aisle. Visit [lokihostel.com/cusco](http://lokihostel.com/cusco); also see the Loki Travel section of the site for tour information.

## For the eco aficionado

Warm your feet by a crackling fire in your Andean-village inspired whitewashed casita at the Inka Terra Machu Picchu hotel (rooms from about \$440). A 30-minute bus ride from Machu Picchu, this property lies in the Andean cloud forest — a lush ecosystem at the intersection of the Peruvian Andes and the Amazon Basin. Towering mountains on either side provide fresh drinking water and fill the hotel's pool and hot tubs. The grounds are home to fruit and vegetable gardens, a tea plantation and 372 orchid species, as well as a diverse hummingbird population and several rescued Andean spectacled bears the hotel hopes to reintroduce to the wild. Take a day trip to Awana Kancha to see the life cycle of the garments you see at local markets. Feed llamas and alpacas while watching as women from local communities spin their fibres, dye the wool with various herbs, barks and minerals and weave them into intricate vibrant designs. Visit [inkaterra.com](http://inkaterra.com) and [awanakancha.com/en](http://awanakancha.com/en).



Soak in the luxury at Palacio Nazarenas. PALACIO NAZARENAS

## For the connoisseur

Sip a Pisco Sour prepared by your butler as you adapt to the altitude in Cusco's luxury hotel, Palacio Nazarenas (rooms from about \$610). Oxygen-enriched rooms and aromatherapy pillows, stuffed with peppermint, coca leaves, sage and flower petals, help ease the transition to 3,400 metres, about 1,000 metres higher than Machu Picchu. A five-minute walk from the main square, this property features modern comforts with historic charm. Board the Belmond Hiram Bingham train (return trip from about \$885), named after the archaeologist credited with introducing the West to Machu Picchu. Sip complimentary mimosas as you travel through the ever-changing scenery from Cusco city to Machu Picchu. Arrive at Machu Picchu rested and refreshed for a hike with one of the train's knowledgeable guides. Don't leave Peru without the Inca royalty treasure vicuña. Considered one of the softest, lightest and warmest animal fibres in the world, Kuna's vicuña shawl is sheared only from protected wild live animals (\$2,250 US). Visit [palacionazarenas.com](http://palacionazarenas.com); [belmond.com](http://belmond.com); and [kuna.com.pe/en/natural\\_fibers/vicuana](http://kuna.com.pe/en/natural_fibers/vicuana).



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Camping in Banff National Park. iStock

## Get out under the stars

**Learn to Camp.** Parks Canada program aims to teach Canadians how to use their own backyard



**ON THE MOVE**  
Loren Christie  
life@metronews.ca

Spring is finally here and Parks Canada wants you to start planning a trip to its national parks and historic sites across the country. I chatted with Julie Lefebvre from the Visitor Experience Branch about the Learn to Camp program that's aiming to fill the parks this summer.

### What is the Learn to Camp program?

We're organizing weekends to teach people the basics of camping. We're looking to help people who have no experience camping and don't know about our national parks or historic sites.

When they register we provide them with equipment such as a tent and sleeping pads through our partner Mountain Equipment Co-op. The Parks Canada and MEC staff run workshops through the weekend and teach them about how to set up a tent, cook around a camp and review all the equipment to bring. We even sing songs around the campfire. The idea is they get the skills to come on their own next time.

### Where and when will these weekends be happening?

June 20 and 21 is the launch date and last Learn to Camp is end of September. There are about 20 places that are going to run the program across the country — mainly in national parks, but there are some historic sites as well.

A few places, like Rouge National Urban Park in Toronto, will do several Learn to Camp weekends throughout the summer but mainly it's once. Several locations will also provide buses from downtown locations to assist in getting everyone to the campsites.

### How do people register?

They can call the Parks Canada call centre. You cannot do it online, but the website [pc.gc.ca](http://pc.gc.ca) does contain all the information on dates and locations.

The registration opens on April 18. It is first come, first serve, so call as soon as it opens. Cost varies depending on location.

### Is there a new program this summer?

Yes, Equipped Campsite. There are nine or 10 locations across the country including Banff National Park and Cape Breton Island that will be renting camping equipment. This is for people who don't have equipment and loved the Learn to Camp program in summers past. People who now feel confident to go on their own with their families.

### Why are these programs so important?

They connect people with nature and give them a great opportunity to have a typical Canadian experience.

## New York City. Architecture poses with fashion in Bill Cunningham exhibition

Bill Cunningham is a familiar presence on the social and fashion pages of The New York Times and the streets of New York City, riding a bicycle with a small camera bag strapped to his waist.

But long before his images of street fashion became a regular newspaper feature, Cunningham spent eight years, from 1968 to 1976, working on a whimsical photo essay of models in period costumes posing against historic sites of the same vintage.

Astride his bike, he searched secondhand shops for antique clothing and looked for architectural sites across the city to create the perfect tableaux, many of which featured his muse and fellow photographer, Editta Sherman.

The result was *Facades*, a book published in 1978.

Now, nearly all of the 88 gelatin silver prints from the series, which Cunningham donated to the New-York Historical Society, are featured in an exhibition there. Bill Cunningham: *Facades* runs through June 15.

A former hat maker, Cunningham's models are featured in fantastical headaddresses. In one composition, Sherman wears a fur pillbox that playfully mimics the spiral lines of Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim



Photographer Bill Cunningham's muse, Editta Sherman, poses in front of the Associated Press Building at Rockefeller Center. NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museum. In another, a large hat brimming with oversized feathers and flowers perched high on Sherman's head is used as a perfect counterpoint to the sculpture of Hercules, Minerva and Mercury on the clock atop Grand Central Terminal.

"I don't think he ever thought of it as a fashion project," said the show's curator, Valerie Paley. "It's more a social, architectural and fashion history of the city. ... He saw the grace of old architecture, the lines and the architectural integrity." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### Bucket List

#### Hassle-free family adventure

Parents want holidays to be as much of a no-brainer as possible. Vacation operator Trafalgar to the rescue. It has a Family Experiences division, where all the fun gets curated for children, parents and grandparents, with

holidays in Canada, the U.S., Europe, South America and South Africa. Benefits include pre-planned itineraries, a chaperone to give you the insider treatment and smooth over language barriers, and full cultural experiences you couldn't possibly arrange yourself, particularly in a foreign country. Check out [trafalgar.com](http://trafalgar.com).

DOUG WALLACE/METRO



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# It's not all about Napa: Four more great Golden State destinations for wine lovers

## California dreamin'.

With so much to choose from, you can drink to your heart's content



**JIM BYERS**  
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Don't get me wrong, I love California's Napa Valley. I was there last fall and had a great time at Mumm with sparkling wine on the patio. I also did a great tour and had wonderful wine at Rutherford Hill. But Napa's kind of like the New York City of California wine regions. It gets a lot of attention that otherwise might be showered on slightly lesser known regions. So here's one very frequent California visitor's guide to four other great wine areas of the Golden State.

### San Francisco East Bay

Fans of big California chardonnays should make a pilgrimage to the historic Wente Vineyards in Livermore, a former cowboy town that's now very chic and classy. It's said that more than 80 per cent of all California Chardonnay grapes are clones of Wente vines; how's that for a family tree? In addition, Wente and nearby Concannon are two



Kunde Family Estate is a pretty, low-key winery in the Sonoma Valley of California. JIM BYERS/FOR METRO

of the oldest wineries in the state, both dating back to 1883.

Wente, in fact, is the oldest continuously run family-owned winery in the States. Wente Chardonnay remains excellent and is often for sale in Canada.

Concannon introduced Petite Sirah to the U.S. in the 1960s and still makes a bold, spicy version.

There are more than 50 wineries in the Livermore-Pleasanton Tri-Valley area, and they're mostly gorgeous. Not only that, they're not overcrowded and not gener-

ally expensive for tasting.

### Santa Barbara

This region was made famous (or, rather, more famous) in the great wine movie Sideways. The film pushed southern California's dreamy, fruity Pinot Noir grapes to the forefront, and also pushed Merlot to the back of the shelves for the longest time.

You can taste excellent wines in downtown Santa Barbara, one of California's best beach cities. Try Municipal Winemakers for an inexpensive, fun experience in what looks like an industrial office.

Jaffur Wine Cellars makes lovely Rhone varietals. The nearby Santa Ynez Valley makes wonderful reds and whites alike, and the town of Los Olivos is a western-looking classic. Be sure to have a steak dinner at the Hitching



Las Positas Vineyards is one of 50-plus wineries in the Tri-Valley area, just a short drive from San Francisco. JIM BYERS/FOR METRO

Post II in Buellton, featured in Sideways.

### Paso Robles

This is an area quickly climbing to the top of the charts with wine experts. They grow rich, opulent Syrahs that are less fruity than the Shiraz style popular in Australia but not as dry and leathery as those of southern France.

The town of Paso Robles is quite pretty, with small cafes

and a fine public square.

Try Opolo Vineyards, high in the hills outside of town, for a classic taste of what this area produces. It's also a tremendous drive through dry hills and pretty canyons.

### Sonoma

Okay, this is really a sister valley to Napa, just a few miles away. But it's got a different vibe. The town of Sonoma itself is oh-so-pretty with its

giant square and Spanish mission, and the wineries tend to be lower-key and less crowded than those in Napa.

Matanzas Creek has spectacular lavender fields and awesome views, as well as great wines. Chateau St. Jean is a beautiful spot that looks like something out of France but can get busy. Kunde Family Estate has lovely staff and beautiful fountains and gardens.

### Best of both worlds

There are more than 50 wineries in the Livermore-Pleasanton Tri-Valley area, and they're mostly gorgeous. Not only that, they're not overcrowded and not generally expensive for tasting.

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## Almost like flying. Newfoundland zip features ocean views, speeds up to 80 km

Rob Carter has a ready answer for anyone who thinks they might like to soar across a suspended cable at speeds of up to 80 km/h but may be a bit leery.

"We had an 86-year-old lady up here," says the founder of North Atlantic Zip Lines as he gazes over gorgeous Petty Harbour, N.L., from the top of a wooden connector platform.

"Truly inspirational. She did the whole course. Our youngest age is eight years old."

Carter said the sensation of breezing along in a harness, double-hooked to the cable, is about as close to flying as you can get. His 10-line course is billed as the largest in Canada with lengths ranging from 90 to 750 metres, strung across heights of up to 75 metres.

"Typically we find it's the fear of the unknown," Carter said of the most concerns of first-time zip liners.

"It's not the heights. They're not sure what to expect, but once they get up here and they go across the first line, they're totally com-



A man tries the North Atlantic Zip Line tour at Petty Harbour, N.L., just outside St. John's. NORTH ATLANTIC ZIP LINES INC. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

fortable and they're off to the races."

Its unique setting, featuring spectacular ocean views from the eastern edge of the continent, has drawn visitors from across Canada and as far away as New Zealand and Alaska, Carter said.

"It's the only place in North America where you can actually zip and see icebergs and whales."

Spring and summer are the best times for that, and guests may also glimpse moose, coyotes, rabbits and eagles.

The entire tour usually takes about two-and-a-half hours, depending on the size

of the group. Reservations can be made at zipthenorthatlantic.com and are strongly recommended in the busiest summer season.

It's also worth taking some time before or after zip lining to explore scenic Petty Harbour.

Located about 20 minutes south of downtown St. John's, it's one of the most photogenic seaside towns in the province.

Its bright homes, soaring cliffs and fishing vessels have been the backdrop for several movies and television shoots including Orca and Republic of Doyle. THE CANADIAN PRESS

### New



### The Glacier Skywalk

Whatever you do, don't look down! No wait, that's the whole point. The Glacier Skywalk, a walkway and observation deck, opens May 1 at the Columbia Icefield Glacier Discovery Centre, about halfway between Banff and Jasper in the heart of the Rockies.

The 30-metre, glass-floor deck is 280 metres above Sunwapta Valley, laying bare the glacial valley below. Scary but breathtaking. Visit glacierskywalk.ca.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

### How-to



### Do your research

1. Skip the hotel concierge desk and find out for yourself what's going on in the city you're visiting — in advance.

2. Google "alternative press" along with the name of the city, discern what the weekly paper is, then get the goods on where to eat, drink, and see a show.

3. Print out maps and make a complete list of the spots you want to visit, so you don't waste vacation time sitting on the computer.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

### Travel Apps



### Citymapper

If you are able to keep an eye on your data-roaming usage, the Citymapper app will get you from A to B in New York, London, Paris and Berlin, whether you're travelling by bus, train, bicycle or on foot. (There are more cities to come.) And until Europe gets rid of roaming charges this summer, you can download these apps: Onavo Extend will shrink the data you use by routing you through the Onavo servers; and Onavo Count will then keep track of your usage. About time.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

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# Don't get tied in knots for an interview

**Hot under the collar.** Ditch your necktie in favour of a professional bow tie

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When you're starting out on a job search, it's important to dress the part — whether you're at a networking event, business lunch or your first entry level job.

Despite the wealth of sartorial advice out there, I've always been a little disappointed at the lack of attention paid to that oft-maligned necktie alternative: the bow tie.

A moment of full disclosure: I couldn't be more biased on this particular front. I've been wearing bow ties for years.

However, this affinity has given me some insight into the practical merits of an admittedly esoteric piece of neckwear.

## They're easy to tie (Part 1)

There's a popular misconception that a bow tie is a modern Gordian knot — when in fact tying a conventional necktie is much more complicated.

While most people learn to tie a tie one way and one way only, two Cambridge physicists have determined that the average tie can be knotted at least 85 different ways, 13 of which result in unique aesthetically pleasing knots.

By contrast, there's only one way to tie a bow tie — and the Internet is full of diagrams and videos that can teach you how.

## They're easy to tie (Part 2)

Have you ever stood in front of your mirror, tying and re-tying a necktie, only to get the length wrong every time? Properly tied, a necktie is supposed to cover the entirety of your shirt placket, with the tip just grazing the top of your belt buckle.

It's hard to pull this off the first time, even after years of practice.



Bow ties are tall-person friendly, as you don't need to worry about having the right length of tie to work with. ISTOCK

This difficulty is greatly reduced with a bow tie. Less fabric to work with means you've got a good chance of getting it right the first time — plus, a bow-tie knot isn't

supposed to be perfect (just a little asymmetrical).

## They're easy to wear

Noted American designer and architect Charles Eames wore

## A-plus accessory

**Nestled snugly at collar level, it leaves you free to sup soup with reckless abandon — and it can't get snagged in a drawer unless you go into a filing cabinet face first.**

bow ties his entire life, supposedly because they kept out of his way while he worked at the drafting table.

If you regularly wear neckties, you'll know how many disastrous threats the average workplace offers your cravat. It can wind up dunked in your morning coffee, serving as an accidental serviette at lunch, snagged in a drawer... the list goes on.

The bow-tie gracefully avoids these potential pitfalls. Nestled snugly at collar level, it leaves you free to sup soup with reckless abandon — and it can't get snagged in a drawer unless you go into a filing cabinet face first.

## They aren't as flashy as you think

"I couldn't get away with wearing that, everyone would stare at me."

I hear this a lot with respect to bow ties, often from friends who claim they admire my "courage." People are often afraid that they'll become an object of comment, or even ridicule, should they jump on the bowtie bandwagon.

The frank truth is that the average person — in your office, on the street — isn't really all that interested in what you're wearing. Sure, it's a bit of a rarity, but the odd funny look shouldn't be what deters you from trying new things.

After all, you'll never be able to find something that makes everyone happy.

If you work in a conservative industry, it's possible the bow tie might not be right for you. But if you're looking to express a little personal style and flair, it might just be time to jump on the bow-tie bandwagon.

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## HERON POINTE AT REUNION

Saving the best for last has never been more fulfilling than with Heron Pointe at Reunion.

In the heart of an established neighbourhood, Excel Homes welcomes families with a stylish collection of front-garage homes to an exclusive phase within the community of Reunion, Airdrie, says Excel Homes Heron Pointe area manager Angela Kolewaski.

“Heron Pointe at Reunion is uniquely positioned with walking paths, abundant parks throughout the community and an operational K-4 school with an opportunity for a future middle school,” she says.

“Hopewell has definitely saved the best for last with releasing the final phase in Heron Pointe at Reunion. We offer executive front-drive garage homes on the pond and a variety of green space lots at prices that will accommodate all lifestyles looking for the estate feel,” Kolewaski says.



CONTRIBUTED

“Excel’s executive homes are receiving a lot of positive attention in the community for their sophisticated thoughtful design and highly comparable price. People also love living just 15 minutes from Calgary without sacrificing green space and free time.”

There are a variety of floor plans available and the spacious two-storey, four-bedroom Manning model is becoming increasingly popular among families who need more space and require an oversized pantry, walk-through laundry, a bakers kitchen and tandem bay garage.

## SHOW HOMES READY TO VIEW

Homebuyers are invited to explore Airdrie’s most inspired new show homes that are ready for viewing by contacting Heron Pointe at Reunion Area manager Angela Kolewaski at 403-948-7270. For more information, visit [excelhomes.ca](http://excelhomes.ca). Two show homes are located at 390 and 394 Reunion Green NW in Airdrie.

“Even empty nesters that are looking for the estate feel but in an affordable home really love this project as well. People who are buying here have toys and they need to store them and they have the space to do so.”

Picturesque streetscapes lined with beautiful homes crafted by award-winning homebuilders await homebuyers looking to buy in the neighbourhood that is tailor-made for West Airdrie’s best lifestyle, Kolewaski says.

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“Buyers love the tandem garage and extra storage space in this executive home”



### Ellerton show home

2124 Sq. ft. | 3 beds | 2.5 baths

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### Getting to Excel’s show homes?

Take Deerfoot Tr. north through Airdrie to the Veterans Blvd./Hwy. 567 exit. Follow west to Reunion gateway, turn right and follow the signs.

For more information, call **403-948-7270** or visit [excelhomes.ca/Reunion](http://excelhomes.ca/Reunion) and end your search with us.

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# A COMMUNITY THAT HELPS ONE ANOTHER

Airdrie may be a growing city, but it's not at the expense of its quality of life.

Results for the 2014 citizen satisfaction survey were released in early March and the response was overwhelmingly positive, with 97 per cent of residents indicating favourable responses, says Dorian Kachur, Airdrie team leader for business strategy.

"They're quite astonishing numbers and really proud of them," she says of the study. "At the end of the day were very pleased our residents are really enjoying their quality of life in Airdrie."

Out of the 40 municipalities surveyed in similar studies, Airdrie scored the highest.

It's no surprise that Airdrie faired so well in the study, as the city has continued to grow at a high pace while also establishing a well-respected reputation in arts and culture, parks and recreation and overall standard of living.

"There's a high quality of life, good

## GREEN WITH ENVY

Airdrie became the envy of other Al-bertan cities when it recently rolled out the first green carts for the upcoming curbside organics recycling program. Curbside organic collection officially begins in April and will help divert up to 50 per cent of waste from the Airdrie landfill, according to officials.

value for tax dollars, innovative programs such as curbside organic waste collection that are a nice bonus for a progressive community. People in Airdrie really appreciate the connectedness to the community; people aren't amongst strangers, they're amongst friends."

Living in Airdrie offers the best of both worlds to residents who crave peaceful living but also want to live close enough to Calgary to commute.



THE CITY OF AIRDRIE/FLICKR

"I think Airdrie offers residents a quieter retreat at the end of the day where they can live and play, and certainly a number of people commute to Calgary for work and come back here to live," Kachur says.

While the city may be reaching mid-size city status in Alberta, Kachur says resi-

dents still appreciate the small-town feel.

"The thing we hear the most often from residents is it has a small-town feel where you know your neighbours, and when you go grocery shopping, you see someone you know. We have a lot of people in the community helping one another."

— Krista Sylvester

## LIVE, PLAY IN AIRDRIE

Airdrie is brimming full of recreation, green space, pathways, and arts and culture opportunities, with more on the way.

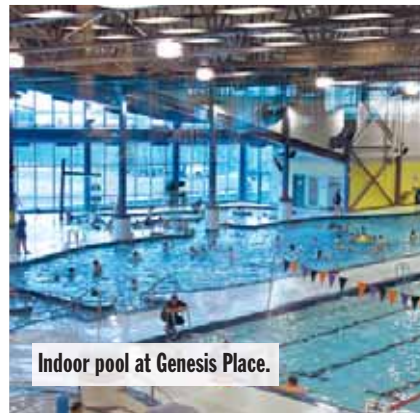
With an abundance of recreation riches, Airdrie boasts more than 700 acres of maintained parkland, more than 20 ball diamonds, more than 45 soccer pitches, and more than 65 sports fields, says Michelle Lock, Airdrie director of community services.

"There's no shortage of opportunities for residents of all ages to get involved in the community and to really work, live and play in Airdrie at a number of levels," Lock says.

When you throw the state-of-the-art Genesis Place multi-use recreation facility into the conversation, Airdrie is loaded with "stuff-you-should-do" material.

"Genesis Place is home to pools, tracks, hockey rinks, a climbing wall and a gymnasium. This facility has something for everyone, from young families to adults and seniors," Lock says, adding the facility has more than one million user visits each year.

Airdrie Deputy Mayor Ron Chapman calls



Indoor pool at Genesis Place.

THE CITY OF AIRDRIE/FLICKR

Genesis Place the "jewel of the community."

"It's an amazing facility where you'll find something for everyone. And it's really great when you go on a weekend and you'll see kids walking around with hockey skates, soccer balls, basketballs, baseballs. It's very well-used and valued by the community."

And Chapman points to another popular aspect of the community — connectivity, a sentiment Lock echoes.

"We have over 90 kilometres of year-round maintained pathway in Airdrie that literally connects the entire community," Lock says. "Residents love being able to get to businesses, work, schools, downtown and other facilities by using the pathways."

— Krista Sylvester



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# Laurent not fazed by bright lights of NFL

**Football.** Former McGill lineman knows nerves could derail Thursday's pre-draft workout

Laurent Duvernay-Tardif can't wait to strut his stuff Thursday.

The McGill Redmen offensive lineman will hold a private workout in Montreal for NFL and CFL scouts. And after spending much of the last four months preparing for the audition, the six-foot-five, 315-pound tackle is ready for it to finally happen.

"I don't know if I should say this but I just want to do it and be done with it," he said with a chuckle Tuesday via telephone. "I've been training since December for this ... for me, it's been so long.

"I felt a little stressed last weekend but I went on the field (Monday) where I'm going to hold my pro day and ran some very good times in my shuttle and three-cone so I think I'm ready."

The 23-year-old med student said he feels terrific right now but understands nerves and the pressure to perform could weigh heavily upon him at his pro day. If that happens, Duvernay-Tardif will take a rather philosophical approach to deal with the situation.

Duvernay-Tardif was able to control being well rested and fresh for his workout.

To ensure that, he took half of last week and all of this one off from his duties working the night shift at a Montreal hospital, expecting to return either Sunday or Monday.



Laurent Duvernay-Tardif of McGill University receives the J.P. Metras Trophy for outstanding lineman during Vanier Cup celebrations, Nov. 21, in Quebec City. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The articulate native of St. Hilaire, Que., finished the season as the top-ranked prospect for this year's CFL draft, slated for May 13. But Duvernay-Tardif has also drawn plenty of NFL interest and is projected as a third- or fourth-round selection in this year's draft, which will be held May 8-10.

Not bad, considering Duvernay-Tardif began his college career as a 253-pound defensive lineman and only switched to offence in 2011. McGill also accommodated his heavy academic workload by reducing his practice commitments during football season.

But that didn't stop Duvernay-Tardif from twice earning

All-Canadian honours and capturing the 2013 Metras trophy as Canadian university football's top lineman.

He was invited to participate in last weekend's CFL combine in Toronto but opted instead to focus on his pro day.

It's unclear how many scouts will attend Duvernay-Tardif's workout. Both the Arizona Cardinals and Buffalo Bills have said publicly they'll be there but some CFL teams are expected to take a miss because Duvernay-Tardif is likely to be go in the NFL draft and start his pro career there.

Regardless, Duvernay-Tardif's people are erring on the side of caution.

"We agreed to prepare food for 50 people, I don't know what that means," Duvernay-Tardif said. "I've been told if we had 15 (NFL scouts) we'd be super happy and if we had 20, that would be incredible."

The scouting report on Duvernay-Tardif says he has the size, strength, athleticism, temperament and intelligence to play at the next level. However, there are concerns about his inexperience as an offensive lineman and having played a yard off the ball at McGill, prompting some scouts to question if Duvernay-Tardif can get into blocks quickly enough in the NFL.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## NHL

### Leafs' playoff bid takes another hit

Roaring cheers greeted the announcement of Jonathan Bernier as the Toronto Maple Leafs' starting goaltender. His return from a five-game absence due to injury was desperately needed amid a season-worst losing streak.

But the result was the same as recent efforts for the Leafs who surrendered their sixth straight, 5-3 to St. Louis on Tuesday night.

The loss dropped the Leafs out of a playoff spot for the first time since Jan. 14. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## NFL

### Bills owner Wilson dies at 95

Ralph Wilson, the Buffalo Bills owner who helped found the American Football League in 1960 and played a key role in the merger with the NFL, died Tuesday. He was 95.

Wilson died at his home in Grosse Pointe Shores, Mich. He had been receiving home hospice care. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Curling

### Homan's rink losing Kreviazuk

Rachel Homan's champion curling rink will have a different look next season.

Longtime second Alison Kreviazuk is leaving the Homan team next month after deciding to move to Sweden to be with her boyfriend. Joanne Courtney of Val Sweeting's rink will join Homan's next season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Weir not wearied by seven-year drought



Mike Weir plays a shot on the sixth hole during the Honda Classic on Feb. 28, in Palm Gardens, Fla. SAM GREENWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

It has been almost seven years since Canadian Mike Weir last won on the PGA Tour.

He has battled injuries over the last few seasons and is trying to regain the form that saw him excel a decade ago. Weir has made the cut at only three events this year but feels his game is close to returning to form.

It's his short game — normally one of his strengths — that has cost him of late. Weir has been working hard to correct things as he prepares for

the two tournaments ahead of the Masters next month.

Weir is scheduled to play at the Valero Texas Open this week in San Antonio before heading to Humble, Tex., for the Shell Houston Open the following weekend. After that, the 2003 Masters champion will return to Augusta for the first major of the golf season.

Weir, 43, pulled out of an event in late January due to a "tweak" in his neck. He has been training hard in recent weeks and is feeling strong

and ready.

The native of Bright's Grove, Ont., beat Len Mattiace in a playoff back in 2003 to become the first Canadian-born men's player to win a major.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Timing is everything

"You've got to put it all together at the right time — I'm just not doing that." Canadian golfer Mike Weir reacting to his struggles on the PGA Tour



# Baylor beast built under the radar

**March Madness.** Bears boast best post-season record over the past six seasons at 17-3

Cory Jefferson figures not too many people really know just how good Baylor has been in post-season play.

Not even the senior forward had put into perspective what the Bears have done until asked this week about their 17-3 post-season record over the past six seasons, which now includes a third NCAA Sweet 16 appearance.

"I'd say it's a very low percentage, considering I didn't even know about the 17-3 until just now," Jefferson said. "It's not really something that I kept up with, but that sounds like a pretty good record to me."

That is an .850 post-season winning percentage, bet-



Montreal's Kenny Chery is one of two Canadians on the Baylor Bears.  
JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

ter than any other Division I team with multiple NCAA appearances in that six-season span. Before those three NCAA tourneys in five years, the Bears made it to an NIT championship game at Madison Square Garden in 2009 — then won that title last

## Quoted

"The Sweet 16 wasn't our goal, so we're still playing for our goal."

Baylor guard Brady Heslip, a native of Oakville, Ont.

season.

"I think it says that we can compete at a high level, and against the best, and we're one of the best," said Scott Drew, Baylor's winningest coach with 204 wins in his 11 seasons.

Baylor (26-11), the No. 6 seed in the West Regional, plays No. 2 seed Wisconsin (28-7) on Thursday in Anaheim, Calif.

The Bears also made it to NCAA regional semifinal games in 2010 and 2012, winning both before losing in the regional final each time to the eventual national champ.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## Waiters serves up Cavs win

The Cavaliers' Dion Waiters drives to the hoop against the Raptors' John Salmons on Tuesday night in Cleveland. Waiters scored 24 points as the Cavaliers prevented Toronto from getting closer to a playoff spot with a 102-100 win. TONY DEJAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Tennis

### Milos hits hard-court milestone

Canadian Milos Raonic achieved his first career quarter-final at the Sony Open on Tuesday as he came through on a fourth match point to defeat Benjamin Becker 6-3, 6-4 in the fourth round.

The day was special in more ways than one for the 23-year-old from Thornhill, Ont., as he won the 100th hard-court match of his career in the 89-minute victory over his German opponent. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Milos Raonic THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Get ready to go in the tough Tahoe



PHOTOS: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

## 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe

- **Type.** Four-door, rear-/four-wheel-drive full-size sport utility vehicle
- **Engines (hp).** 5.3-litre OHV V8 (355)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$50,800



## Fuel economy

Despite a 45-kilogram drop in weight and improved aerodynamics, the Tahoe rates 14.9 l/100 km in the city and 10.1 on the highway, compared to a slightly better 14.3/9.4 rating for the 2014 model's 5.3 V8.

## Design

The shape is sleeker, there's less weight and more available safety content on tap. However the powertrain is a bit harder on gas. The trimmer sheet metal and stylish grille create the impression that the Tahoe is a bit smaller than before, but the tape measure proves that not much has really changed.

**Review.** It might be an SUV but it makes no apologies about being hardy and capable

MALCOLM GUNN  
wheelbasemedia.com

Honestly, when was the last time you heard the term "sport utility vehicle" banded about? It likely has been a while, since not many are being made anymore. Still, there are a few hanging on, including the full-size Tahoe and its super-size Suburban relation.

Hanging on? Actually, these rigs, with their ball-team seating capacities, are thriving where others have faded from sight or have been converted to gentler, more fuel-frugal car-based wagons. North American Tahoe/Suburban sales climbed more than 15 per cent for the 2013 model year and, according to General Motors, represented nearly half of all full-size sport utility vehicles sold. Add in healthy sales of the similar GMC Yukon and there's little

left for the few remaining competitors. The 2015 Tahoe, arriving this spring, has undergone a complete transformation. What is clear is the separation between the Tahoe and the considerably bolder looking 2015 Yukon counterpart.

It's a different story on the inside where max stowage volume has actually decreased slightly, possibly because the third-row seats now fold flat for added capacity and are no longer removable. Other changes include a more fashionable dashboard and control panel, complete with a five- or available eight-inch touchscreens that control the infotainment and communications systems. A smaller secondary screen is located between the watch-style dash gauges that displays key info where the driver can easily view it.

The filing-cabinet-sized centre console can swallow a laptop computer and other bulky items. There are also storage areas beneath the door armrests plus a secure spot behind the touchscreen for holding cell phones and other small valuables. The Tahoe's body is

attached to a stronger ladder frame that widens the distance between the wheels slightly for greater stability.

Mounted between the rails is a 5.3-litre V8 that produces 355 horsepower and healthy 383 pound-feet of torque. Although displacement is the same as the previous base V8, the new 5.3 is all-aluminum and employs direct-injection (fuel force-fed into the cylinders under high pressure) and continuously variable valve timing (alters valve lift/duration to improve performance and economy).

The engine can also run on four cylinders under steady-state cruising, which also saves gas. The transmission is a six-speed automatic with steering-wheel "TapShift" controls and a Tow/Haul mode that holds the gear changes longer when trailing heavy loads (up to 3,640 kilograms). There's also auto Grade Braking, which downshifts the transmission to help slow the Tahoe when descending a hill. This helps maintain vehicle control while ensuring the brakes don't overheat.

As per the 2014 version, the

2015 Tahoe is offered in LS, LT and LTZ flavours. Base models come with plenty of standard gear, with the mid- and top-grade trims piling on content such as keyless push-button entry, power-folding rear seat and start, magnetic ride control that constantly adjusts the dampers for a smoother ride.

Eighteen-inch wheels are standard with 20- and 22-inchers available at extra cost. On the safety front, along with the latest in crash-avoiding technologies, there's an available front-seat centre air bag.

It deploys (from the right side of the driver's seat) to prevent passengers from colliding with each other during a side impact. This key piece of technology addresses a weakness in current shoulder belt design that allows passengers to move sideways. Look for broader use of this in more vehicles. With a \$50,800 starting price (\$3,300 extra for four-wheel-drive), including destination charges, the new Tahoe continues a tradition of capability and power. Even in this day and age, it makes no apologies for that, nor should it.

## Compare



**1 Ford Expedition**  
Base price: \$43,500



**2 Toyota Sequoia**  
Base price: \$44,600



**3 GMC Yukon**  
Base price: \$46,000

5 DRIVE



# Adore that floor — the garage one, that is

**AutoKnow.** It's time to pay some attention to the most neglected space in the home

GARRY  
SOWERBY  
wheelbasemedia.com

The garage floor. There it is.

Chipped, cracked, abused, stained, filthy, dusty, boring ... the garage floor. But after decades of being the grey sheep of the flooring world in nearly every home and many businesses, this stale concrete slab is enjoying a renaissance of affordable improvement options to finally show its true colours, literally.

From vivid tiles and decorative porcelain looks, to the more practical epoxy finishes, the art of the garage floor is gaining momentum by both professional installers and do-it-yourselfers. A few hundred dollars and a little imagination is all you need to transform any dull concrete into an inviting, safe and functional part of the property.

"It's a usable space that most homeowners don't pay much attention to," said John Massie, co-owner of a Garage Experts franchise located in Phoenix, Ariz. "But with more and more flooring options, homeowners are recognizing the benefits and taking more pride in that part of their property." Massie's primary area of expertise is the epoxy surface finishes because he believes this method provides the most durable and practical flooring option available.

Used for both residential and commercial floors, the epoxy treatment provides an immediate showroom shine that is every bit as beautiful as it is functional. From an understated solid stain to a vibrancy of colour flakes to be mixed and matched, the decorative options are endless. And because the garage space in many homes is becoming as much a "man cave" or gathering space

## Reminder

**"It's a usable space that most homeowners don't pay much attention to."**

John Massie, co-owner of a Garage Experts franchise located in Phoenix, Ariz.

as it is somewhere to park and tinker with the car, epoxy floors are a great option for both the home mechanic and the couch potato.

These modern epoxy floors not only look great and make cleanup easy, the hardness and thickness of these coatings protects the concrete against chips, cracks, scratches and harmful chemical spills.

Relatively easy application (after a lot of prep work) and affordability also make epoxy an inviting flooring option for do-it-yourselfers. Generally, the product requires the mixing of several parts and then application with a roller. Lower-end flooring kits for a standard two-car garage can cost about \$100.

Prices vary, obviously, but professional installation of an epoxy coating starts at about \$4 a square foot, so a typical two-car garage measuring about 400 square feet pushes the total cost to about \$1,600.

Like so many projects, the cost savings for the DIYers is obvious, but Massie warns that you get what you pay for.

"I've taken off more floors from do-it-yourself homeowners because they weren't happy with it and it didn't last as long as they expected it to," Massie said. "They see a bargain when they go to the store. They decide to do it themselves. They watch a YouTube video of the installation process, and then two years later they call us to fix it." But for those dedicated to doing it themselves, Massie said the most important consideration is the percentage of solids content in the epoxy coating, or the measure of how much epoxy will be lost through "evaporation" during the curing process.

Massie explains that the typical epoxy sold at home-improvement stores provides a solid content of about 60 to 80 per cent, meaning anywhere from 20 to 40 per cent of the applied product will be lost during the drying process.

Professional grade products cost about four times more than the standard store-bought epoxy coverings, but with a solid content of between 98 and 100 per cent, minimal product is lost and the homeowner can expect a properly installed floor to last for decades instead of just years. Massie compared



Snap-together tiles, such as those from Racedeck Garage Floors ([www.racedeck.com](http://www.racedeck.com)) come in many styles and colours and can be arranged in an infinite number of patterns. Compared to paint or epoxy, there's almost zero surface prep. ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE



In low-traffic areas, a normal painted floor can look good and wear well, but the garage environment is a harsh one with high loads, dropped tools and, of course, cars parked all over it.



Available in many colours and finishes, epoxy coatings are also appropriate for industrial uses, such as office foyers, airplane hangars and other such high-traffic areas. Epoxy requires more surface prep, but the task is not out of the realm of the do-it-yourselfer.

## A common pattern

**"They see a bargain when they go to the store. They decide to do it themselves. They watch a YouTube video of the installation process, and then two years later they call us to fix it."**

John Massie, co-owner of a Garage Experts franchise located in Phoenix, Ariz

epoxy production to brewing beer, where the lower-grade product used in the cheapest DIY kits literally comes from the bottom of the barrel.

"They just basically bottle it up and can it for consumer use," Massie said. "That's why it is a (quarter) of the cost."

And while epoxy floorings are the favourite choice for do-it-yourselfers, the popularity of interlocking tile floors is also growing because of the variety of styles and colours they provide, along with easy installa-

tion. There is basically no surface preparation required at all. Available in either stiff polypropylene or the more flexible PVC rubbery materials, tile garage floors offer a personalized design for the do-it-yourselfer while also providing a non-slip flooring option that is resistant to stains, oils and chemicals.

Ballpark pricing for the least expensive polypropylene tile floors can start at about \$2 a square foot while the more durable PVC tiles can cost \$3 or more per square foot. Peel

and stick tile floors are another option — they're easy to install and cost about \$2.50 a square foot.

Massie is somewhat skeptical of the interlocking tile floors compared to epoxy because he said dirt and grime could get trapped in the gaps between the tiles and become next to impossible to clean without removing the entire floor.

"The biggest concern with the interlocking systems is there is nothing sealing off the

concrete floor underneath," said Massie, stressing that warranty is also an important factor to consider when choosing the best flooring option. "But interlocking tiles are easy for the homeowner to install and they look very nice."

Whether professional or DIY, turning a cold grey slab of concrete into an inviting place to play and work can not only improve the look of a garage but also add some value and appeal to a home or business.







# Great Scotti! That's one hell of a car collection

## Enforced auction.

Dealership owner and avid collector John must sell portion of his giant number of vehicles as he is moving house



**AUTO PILOT**  
Mike Goetz  
drive@metronews.ca

In true collector spirit, John Scotti kept acquiring muscle cars and late model exotics, and didn't worry too much about the accumulation. But now he's forced to — The Montreal-based collector, who also operates sev-

eral new-car dealerships, has to relocate his Lamborghini and Lotus operations, which also houses a good chunk of his collection, and the new digs just can't take all the 'Vettes, Mustangs, Cudas, and Torinos.

So he's sending 400 to 450 of them to auction. The "John Scotti Collection" will headline Auctions America's spring sale in Auburn, Ind., on May 8-10, and

stands to be the largest single Canadian car collection ever sold at auction.

Some might suggest the word "collection" could be replaced with "inventory," as most of the vehicles appeared to be for sale by John Scotti Classic Cars. But Howard Cohen, who manages John Scotti Classic Cars, told us there were cars in the warehouse no one ever saw. "Some have been

sitting in there for 12 years." Cohen also adds that his boss is a lifelong car enthusiast who acquired the vehicles over a period of time, and that the collection very much reflects his personal tastes.

Scotti must be drawn to low-mileage original muscle cars, because there are an impressive number of those in the collection. Two such examples include the 1967 Corvette Convertible with 5,500 miles, and the 1987 Buick GNX showing just 90 original miles.

The car expected to fetch the highest value under the hammer is the show-ready 1934 Chrysler Airflow, with a sales estimate of \$150,000 to \$200,000. All the collection cars will be sold with "no reserve" (sometimes sellers stipulate a reserve or minimum selling amount that must be met before the vehicle can change hands). While "no reserve" seems to introduce an element of risk, Gord Duff of Auctions America says history has shown that "no reserve" always creates more interest and attendance and buzz, and that always translates to better overall sales results.

He also noted that the John

Scotti cars are on a one-way ticket to Indiana. "Both parties (Auctions America and John Scotti) have put in lots of work to get these cars here. They're not going back to Montreal."

From Scotti's end, the work entails starting hundreds of veteran cars that haven't stirred for a while, and that means lots battery replacements and carb cleaning, and the occasional un-sticking of seized brakes. About 200 cars are already in Indiana. Another 200-plus to go. "Everything has to be out of here by April 30th, that's the cut-off," says Cohen.

While in an ideal world, Cohen would have preferred to sell the cars the usual "retail" way, he completely agrees with his boss's decision to make this mass sell-off. "We just had too many cars... To be honest with you, my boss likes buying more than he does selling."

And he's at it again. "John just made another purchase — 946 cars from a 92-year old collector." For more information on the John Scotti auction check out auctionsamerica.com. You can also watch a lot of the auction live on the NBC Sports Network.



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SL AWD model shown\*



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A large portion of John Scotti's insanely large car collection. IMAGES: AUCTIONS AMERICA



The star of the show could be the Chrysler Airflow, which should fetch \$150,200k.

AMVIC Licensed. \*Finance offers are now available on new 2014 Nissan (L6RG14 AA00), CVT transmission. Selling Price is \$36,368/\$31,678. Finance at 0%/2.9% APR equals 144/182 bi-weekly payments of \$233/\$192 for a 72/84 month term. \$0/\$0 down payment required. Cost of borrowing is \$0/\$3,361.76 for a total obligation of \$36,368/\$35,040. Conditions apply. \*Representative semi-monthly lease offer based on new 2014 Rogue S FWD (Y6RG14 AA00), CVT transmission. 3.9% lease APR for a 60 month term equals 120 semi-monthly payments of \$138 with \$1,850 down payment, and \$0 security deposit. First semi-monthly payment is due at lease inception. Prices include freight and fees. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at \$0.10/km. Total lease obligation is \$18,420. Conditions apply. \*\$4,000 Cash Discount is based on non-stackable trading dollars and is applicable to all 2014 Murano models, except 2014 Murano S, AWD (L6RG14 AA00), CVT transmission. The \$4,000 cash purchaser's discount is only available on the cash purchase of select new 2014 Murano models (excluding the L6RG14 AA00 trim model). The cash purchaser's discounts will be deducted from the selling price. \*Models shown \$42,718/\$43,783/\$44,848. Selling Price for a new 2014 Murano SL (L6TG14 AA00), CVT transmission/2014 Pathfinder Platinum 4X4 (5XEG14 AA00), CVT transmission/Rogue SL AWD Premium model (Y6DG14 BK00), CVT transmission. \*\*Freight and PDE charges (\$1,750/\$1,760/\$1,630), air-conditioning tax (\$100) where applicable, certain fees where applicable (AB: \$20 tire recycling tax), manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable are included. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Finance and lease offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers except stackable trading dollars. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between March 1-31st, 2014. \*Ward's Large Cross/Utility Class. 2014 Pathfinder S 2WD with CVT transmission fuel consumption estimate is 10.5L/100 KM CITY | 7.7L/100 KM HWY | 9.3L/100 KM COMBINED. Actual mileage will vary with driving conditions. Use for comparison purposes only. Based on 2012 EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. \*Based on 2014 Canadian Residual Value Award in Compact Utility Vehicle segment. ALG is the industry benchmark for residual values and depreciation data. www.alg.com. \*All information compiled from third-party sources including manufacturer websites. Not responsible for errors in data on third party website. 12/17/2013. Offers subject to change. Continuation of cancellation without notice. Offers have no cash alternative value. See your participating Nissan retailer for complete details. 1999-2013 Nissan Canada Inc. and Nissan Financial Services Inc. a division of Nissan Canada Inc.



## Horoscopes

### Aries

March 21 - April 20

It may at times seem as if you are moving backwards but that means you need to adjust your way of thinking. What you have to understand is that every experience moves you forward, eventually.

### Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Social activities will go well today, so make an effort to get out and meet new people. The more things you do with others, the more you will enjoy yourself and the more of an effect your actions will have.

### Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You can be a bit too blunt and with Mercury, your ruler, linked to Jupiter, planet of excess, today you may say too much. So what? At least you have something worth saying.

### Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You need to realize there is more going on than you were previously aware of. You need to accept that in spite of all the bad things that go on in the world, it's a wonderful place.

### Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Either you will come into money today or you will come up with a plan that makes you money in the future. If it's the latter, be patient. True wealth is worth waiting for.

### Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Joint plans are less likely to go wrong today if you keep any doubts you have to yourself. Yes, it's quite likely you can see a better way of doing things but, having agreed to take part in a venture, you must be positive about it.

### Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Self-confidence is the key to success, so believe in what you are doing. Remember too that the world you experience is largely a reflection of what goes on inside your head.

### Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You must carry on with a creative endeavor that you may have been thinking of giving up on. You don't seem to realize how close you are to a breakthrough.

### Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Today's Mercury-Jupiter aspect will help you find the words to connect with those you are closest to. You don't have to get emotional but you do have to remind them that your love is unconditional.

### Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

It's unlike you to be easygoing about people you don't much like and opinions you think are stupid but you seem to have reached a point where, frankly, you no longer care. Getting uptight is not worth the hassle.

### Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Mercury in the money area of your chart suggests that Lady Luck will be smiling on you over the next few days. If you do find you have extra cash in your pocket, why not treat someone you love to an afternoon or evening out?

### Pisces

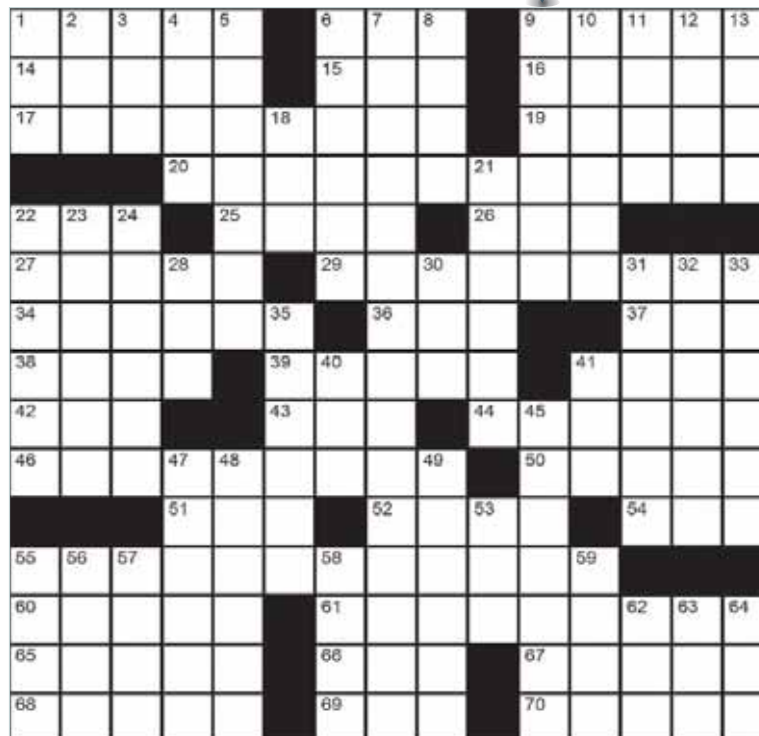
Feb. 20 - March 20

It's an ideal day to make promises. Mercury, planet of the mind, is on your side so decide what you desire and commit to making it yours. The universe will hear and respond favourably. **SALLY BROMPTON**

## Crossword: Canada Across and Down

### Across

1. Nest noise
6. First aid team, e.g.
9. Quick times
14. \_\_\_ grudge
15. Maintain the lawn
16. "Garfield: \_\_\_ of Two Kitties" (2006)
17. Kim Mitchell hit: 3 wds.
19. Peppy gathering
20. Saskatchewan city just north of Saskatoon
22. Singer's prop
25. Jessica's surname
26. Scot's 'own'
27. Web memo, \_\_\_
29. Vintage comedy
34. New York's capital
36. Shiba \_\_\_ (Dog breed of Japan)
37. "\_\_\_ Mir Bist Du Schon" by The Andrews Sisters
38. Randy Jackson's word
39. French painter Edouard
41. Musician Mr. Saunders
42. 'Capri' suffix
43. Smoker's prop
44. Has moved on: 2 wds.
46. Bing-using reason: 2 wds.
61. Justin's super fans
65. Hot chocolate
66. Wide shoe width
67. "No!"
68. Sharp weapon
69. Learning basics, informally
70. \_\_\_ Canada



have: 2 wds.

60. Just one French fry
61. Justin's super fans
65. Hot chocolate
66. Wide shoe width
67. "No!"
68. Sharp weapon
69. Learning basics, informally
70. \_\_\_ Canada

Highway

### Down

1. Visa transaction, briefly
2. "Yoo-\_\_\_!"
3. Gremlin
4. Ancient Dead Sea land
5. \_\_\_ Free (Beauty

- product's label info, maybe)
6. Hams it up
7. Linda Evangelista's really took off in 1990: 2 wds.
8. Graceful bird
9. Canadian singer/producer Mr. Church
10. Turtles tune: "\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Me Babe"

11. Tumble
12. Stuff
13. Leonard \_\_\_, Roy Rogers' birth name (b.1911 - d.1998)
18. \_\_\_ Lanka
21. Largest dairy processor in Canada
22. \_\_\_ Lake (Sas-

See today's answers at [metronews.ca/answers](http://metronews.ca/answers).

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

- katchewan city, the "Gateway to Pure Air & Water")
23. Getting home tardily: 2 wds.
24. Arachnid's architecture
28. Wrestling: \_\_\_ team
30. 'Meth' suffix
31. Spanish airline
32. Cherry: French
33. Out of \_\_\_ (Unbalanced)
35. Q. "\_\_\_" a song by what group?" A. "Village People."
40. Broadcast
41. Mal de \_\_\_ (Seasickness)
45. Don McLean song about a Dutch painter
47. Courtship guy
48. Group of nine
49. Faith \_\_\_
53. 'Pepper' add-on (Deli item)
55. Ozone pollutants, for short
56. In \_\_\_ (Sequentially)
57. Puerto's partner
58. Slangy 'super'
59. Celebrity hairstylist Jose
62. Actress Ms. Green
63. Stimp's pal
64. Non-Jr.s

## Yesterday's Crossword



## Sudoku

### How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

## Yesterday's Sudoku



## Weather

TODAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



MAX: -6°  
MIN: -8°



MAX: -7°  
MIN: -11°



MAX: -2°  
MIN: -13°

ANDREW SCHULTZ  
METEOROLOGIST

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140129

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OR PAY **\$194** BIWEEKLY

SAVE \$5,019



2014 GRAND CHEROKEE OVERLAND

140122 - "THE WORKS"

**\$54998**

OR PAY **\$325** BIWEEKLY



2014 GRAND CARAVAN SXT

140128 - 4x4 - 5 SPEED MANUAL

**\$27498**

OR PAY **\$164** BIWEEKLY



2014 RAM 1500 SPORT

140129 - CREW CAB - REMOTE START - BLUETOOTH

**\$39998**

OR PAY **\$237** BIWEEKLY



2014 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA 4 DR.

140127 - 4x4 - 5 SPEED MANUAL

**\$34448**

OR PAY **\$205** BIWEEKLY

SAVE \$3,902



2014 GRAND CHEROKEE SRT8

140122 - "THE WORKS"

**\$CALL**

OR PAY **\$433** BIWEEKLY

SRT8 470 HP



2014 GRAND CARAVAN CREW

140128 - 4x4 - 5 SPEED MANUAL

**\$34497**

OR PAY **\$205** BIWEEKLY

SAVE \$10,108



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140129 - CREW CAB

**\$34998**

OR PAY **\$208** BIWEEKLY

SAVE \$14,792



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**\$15998**

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2013 CHRYSLER 200

**\$15998**

OR PAY **\$99** BIWEEKLY



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